



## Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

The findings of the assessment of cricket facilities in the London Borough of Ealing are summarised in this appendix. Affiliated cricket clubs registered to Ealing representing most of the teams playing their home fixtures in the borough have contributed to this assessment either by submitting a survey return in 2021 to the consultant or the Council's Leisure Service or by means of in person consultation during site visits.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2015/16 there have been significant changes in both the supply of cricket pitches in the borough and in cricket demand. On the supply side, as recommended in the last PPS, the Council has provided a new pavilion and cricket pitch at Popesfield Sports Ground (opened summer 2017) and leased to Ealing Cricket Club, a community cafe/pavilion in Blondin Park alongside a non-turf pitch (funded by The London Cricket Trust) and new pavilions for cricket and football in Rectory Park, Perivale Park and Durdans Park. London Cricket Trust also funding one of two new non turf wickets in Southall Recreation Ground, plus a new 3 lane free to use cricket net facility in Southall Park.

In a major joint project with Hounslow Council, the Council has also provided a new cricket and football share pavilion in Gunnersbury Park. This project brings the equivalent of two additional pitches into the Ealing supply out of the 3 new pitches on site along with access for clubs and teams to new shared changing and social facilities. The programme of use will be agreed by the two boroughs under advice from Middlesex Cricket to ensure women and girl's cricket is given priority use. Given the park's location, the facilities will be very accessible to residents in the south east of the borough.

In addition, a new privately funded 3-lane indoor cricket facility was recently completed at Trailfinders Sports Club (necessitating relocation of the main square). Other significant cricket facility enhancement projects initiated from the action plan in the last PPS include relaying by the Council of the cricket pitches in Ealing Central Sports Ground (ready for summer 2023), installation of a new fine turf pitch and upgrade of the Sports Hall at William Perkin High School (with ECB grant funding) to facilitate county level indoor cricket training, and completion of a small extension to the cricket pavilion by Brentham Sports Club.

Key trends in cricket demand identified in 2016 have continued to impact. These include growth in the number of Saturday league teams, the establishment by clubs with Middlesex Cricket of new 'transition' youth teams bridging the gap between youth and senior cricket and continued growth in the numbers of women and girls playing cricket. There has been also growth in short game team formats outside the traditional club structure driven by increasing pressures of time for work, family and other commitments.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly on community cricket in the 2020 season. However, cricket demand largely recovered in 2021 and is expected to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels in summer 2022.

## 1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in the London Borough of Ealing are summarised in this section. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council's Sports Team, Middlesex Cricket and user clubs. In the case of a number of key cricket sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken in September 2021 by Middlesex Cricket's Pitch Support Network (PSN).

### 1.1 Cricket Pitches in the London Borough of Ealing

32 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket across Ealing in 2022, on 23 operational playing pitch sites. A further 4 fine turf pitches at Ealing Central Sports Ground are currently undergoing drainage improvement works and pitches at Durdans Park Cricket Ground (to be leased to Ramgarhia SSC) and Trailfinders Sports Club will be in use for the first time in 2022. In 2022, there are 19 non-turf pitches available for use across 15 sites. Whilst there has been little change in the number of fine turf pitches in the borough since the last PPS aside from at Popesfield Playing Field and at William Perkin High School, there has been a significant increase in the provision of non-turf pitches and indoor cricket facilities (for example the new facilities at William Perkin High School and Trailfinders Sports Club).

The sites currently operational for community cricket fall into the following access categories:

- **Club grounds with fine turf pitches** - i.e. grounds with access restricted to club members and guests. 14 club grounds in diverse ownership including sites owned by community cricket clubs (e.g. Ealing Cricket Club), by community organisations with cricket sections (e.g. Brentham Club, SKLP Sports & Community Centre, Spike's Bridge Park run by London Tigers), by the private sector (e.g. Club des Sports home ground of Acton Cricket Club), by playing field charities (e.g. London Playing Fields Foundation in Greenford), by an individual (Trailfinders Sports Club) and by Ealing Council (e.g. Brentfield Cricket Ground leased to Ealing Cricket Club, two sites in Acton leased to Actonians Sports Association, Shepherd's Bush Cricket Club Ground leased to Virgin Active and sub-let to the club, and Osterley Cricket Ground in Tentelow Lane, Southall leased to Osterley Cricket Club). Responsibility for maintenance at these sites lies with the club, sports association or private owner i.e. not with the council.
- **Open sites with fine turf pitches** – there are 6, of which five are managed by the Council: Ealing Central Sports Ground (re-opening in 2023), Islip Manor Park, North Acton Playing Fields, Perivale Park and Rectory Park. A consortium operates a sixth open cricket site, Blondin Park. A grounds maintenance contractor (Greener Ealing Ltd) maintains the Council pitches. Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub run by Better on behalf of both Ealing and Hounslow Council's opened 3 new cricket pitches in 2021 and 2022 are also maintained by Greener Ealing Limited. In addition to the fine turf pitches, Southall Recreation Ground managed by the Council, has 2 NTP pitches which are open access.
- **School sites with fine turf pitches** – there are 5 with restricted access i.e. Drayton Manor High School (an academy school in Hanwell), St Benedict's High School (an independent school in Perivale Lane,

Greenford), William Perkin High School in Greenford (a Twyford Trust school) and Durston House Preparatory School playing field in Swyncombe Avenue on the Hounslow border where community use is limited to hires by the Ealing-based Northfields Cricket Club for friendly Sunday fixtures, nets and occasional 20/20 games on Wednesday evenings. Responsibility for maintenance of these education pitches lies with the schools.

In addition to these sites available and in regular community use, a further school cricket pitch in the borough and a company sports ground pitch just over the borough boundary in Hounslow have no current community use: Dormers Wells High School has a junior non-turf pitch with a small outfield. Currently, there are no community hires of this facility although Ealing CC **have previously had** discussions with the school regarding a junior cricket partnership. The Glaxo Smith Kline Company Sports Ground in Swyncombe Avenue (W5 4DS) - adjacent to Durston House Prep School's playing field and just over the southern boundary in Hounslow - has no current availability for use by community teams but will in future serve Hounslow based clubs as it is the process of transfer to London Borough of Hounslow.

### 1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use of the non-turf pitches available on their grounds.

The Actonians pitch at Boddington Gardens has several strips at the end of the square suitable for junior use. The NTP at Dormers Wells High School is for junior use although the boundary is slightly undersize. At most sites, Kwik cricket is generally played on temporary pitches set up on a mown strip

in the outfield (or several strips around the outfield in the event of Kwik cricket tournaments and festivals).

### 1.3 Closed Sites

The following playing fields in the borough formerly accommodated operational cricket pitches and remain opportunity sites for reinstatement of cricket should a need be established, subject to owner consent (in the case of the privately owned site), planning and funding:

- Warren Farm Sports Centre - a large Council-owned site formerly providing extensive playing fields for cricket and football in Windmill Lane, Osterley.
- Former Barclays Bank Sports Ground - a large former company sports ground in Park View Road, Ealing now in private ownership. Potential to reinstate the playing field at the north end of the site.

### 1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

In the younger age groups (U10 to U13), some hardball match play takes place on non-turf pitches (NTPs). NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground of which there are several in the Ealing area, particularly in the South Asian communities in Southall. NTPs are now provided at 15 playing field sites in the borough compared with just 9 in 2015/16. As recommended in the last PPS, NTPs have been installed since 2016 at Popesfield Sports Ground, Durdan's Park, Blondin Park, William Perkin High School and Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub:

- Actonians Boddington Gardens (good quality)
- Blondin Park (good quality but uneven outfield)
- Brentfield Cricket Ground (Poor quality - signs of damage and the old NTP needs removing or replacing as it is a trip hazard)



- Brentham Sports Club (Standard quality - need surface renewal in short to medium term)
- Dormers Wells High School (Good quality but undersized outfield for junior match play - no current community use)
- Drayton Manor High School
- Durdans Park (Standard quality - little used to date. Attention is needed to marry the edge of the NTP into the square and to the bounce)
- Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub x 3 (good quality, installed 2020/1)
- Ealing Cricket Club (Standard quality, separate from main square so two games can be run concurrently. Works recently carried out to improve the bounce)
- North Acton Playing Fields x 2 (Installed in 2014)
- Osterley Cricket Club x 2
- Popesfield Sports Ground (Good quality - Ealing CC aspires to a second NTP at this ground to expand capacity for junior play and training)
- SKLPC Sports Ground (derelict NTP on outfield requires replacement or removal as trip hazard)
- Spikes Bridge Park (Standard quality - installed in 2015, with uneven outfield)
- Southall Recreation Ground x 2 (good quality but uneven outfields - one funded by the London Cricket Trust, used extensively for informal use and by schools)
- William Perkin High School (Good quality).

There is also a very poor quality NTP laid between two football pitches at Northolt High School playing field and another poor quality NTP at Greenford High School. Neither NTP has a history of use by community cricket clubs or any type of match play cricket. The Northolt High School NTP was used in 2017 for delivery of an official's training course and a 'Team Up' programme.

### 1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

Most of the cricket club home grounds in the borough have functioning outdoor practice net systems.

**Figure 1.1 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations, number of lanes and quality**

Location	Number	Quality
Actonians Sports Ground	6	Good quality
Actonians at Boddington Gardens	3	Standard quality
Brentham Club	3	Standard quality - 2 operational and a third junior net out of use due to storm damage. The nets are poorly oriented (i.e. east/west).
Club des Sports, Acton	5	Standard quality - located near to the main 3G pitch and poorly oriented (east/west), these nets are used extensively by West London Cricket Academy and Acton CC
Drayton Manor High School	3	Standard quality - The nets are poorly oriented (i.e. east/west).
Durston House Preparatory School	not known	not known - occasional use by 'friendly' cricket club (Northfields CC)

Location	Number	Quality
Ealing Cricket Club	5 (8 from 2022)	Good - The club are in the process of moving the nets and adding 3 more. From the 2022 season there will be 8 nets (6 full size and 2 smaller size).
Osterley Cricket Club	1	Very Poor - not constructed to ECB approved system standard, needs replacing
Popesfield Sports Ground	2	Good quality
Shepherds Bush Cricket club	3	Good quality
SKLPC Sports Ground	2	Poor quality - the club is looking to replace
Southall Park	3	Good quality - London Cricket Trust. Open access.
Spikes Bridge Park	3	Good quality
St Benedicts School Playing Fields	2	Good quality
William Perkin High School	4	Good quality

The free to use open access non-turf cricket practice net system at Southall Park was installed by the London Cricket Trust since the last PPS was completed and has proved very popular, in particular for communities of South Asian heritage in the immediate local area. The costs of maintaining

and inspecting nets systems are a constraint on further provision in other open access sites.

### 1.6 Indoor Practice Nets

Since the last PPS when lack of indoor training facilities was identified as a shortfall in the borough, Trailfinders Sports Club has built 3 new indoor nets with ancillary changing, toilets, storage and office, opened in December 2021. Middlesex Cricket has also invested grant funding in upgrading the dual use Sports Hall at The William Perkin High School to ensure it is suitable for indoor cricket. This facility, known as the Wilf Slack Centre, is used extensively by Middlesex Cricket for boys and girls pathway activities and mens and women's indoor cricket competitions. St Benedict's (independent) School has two indoor nets in its sports hall that are also available for community use. New cricket net facilities are also available at the new sports halls located at Ada Lovelace and Ealing Fields High Schools and the new Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub, whilst the closure of Southall Sports Centre in 2022 has meant the loss of 2 cricket lanes.

A number of the clubs consulted commented that they travel to access winter nets at Lords Cricket School in St John's Wood and the Middlesex Indoor School in Finchley as the nearest high-quality provision although hire charges at these facilities can act as a deterrent to use of these high-quality facilities by the smaller community clubs.

Pull out cricket nets are provided and advertised as available for hire at several of the community sports halls in Ealing. However, indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the borough so the main constraint on cricket hires is competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton. These are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor

cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the programme and income.

### 1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

The strategic aim of Middlesex Cricket is to sustainably grow cricket participation in the county. In furtherance of this aim, Middlesex Cricket encourages the provision of suitable facilities in accessible locations for playing non-traditional, short format cricket with broad appeal across all ages and communities. Non-traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20 over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of 75 minutes approximately for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). The Council has responded positively to this trend over the last 10 years installing MUGAs that are heavily used for Cage Cricket in Southall Park and Southall Recreation Ground.

The Last Man Stands (LMS) London City Centre and Corporate league competitions are both played at Regent's Park Sports Hub and the SW London Sunday LMS fixtures take place on NTPs on Clapham Common, Tooting Common and Wandsworth Common. Currently, there is no Ealing LMS league although North Acton Playing Fields has previously hosted LMS competitions. The newly upgraded cricket facilities at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub offer potential to host LMS cricket.

Cricket is particularly popular within the large and growing South Asian communities in the borough, located primarily in Southall and across the Northolt border into the Harrow area. A growing number of informal (un-constituted) teams play short forms of the game in competitive leagues

such as the Tamil ETCL Premier Leagues, established in 2010 and organising games on Sundays throughout the summer mainly on public pitches.

Kay Plus, Lankians, Southall Dragons, Gangeshwar, Shivam, Diu Daredevils, The Telugu Association of London are examples of non-traditional unaffiliated cricket teams from Ealing playing mainly short format friendly matches on park pitches in the borough. These teams do not own or lease a home ground and clubhouse facility and play home fixtures where they are able to hire a suitable pitch and changing rooms on a season-by-season block booked basis or weekly pay and play basis. North Acton Playing Fields, Perivale Park and Rectory Park are the public parks with cricket facilities that are extensively hired for this growing type of community cricket outside the traditional cricket club model.

### 1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches within Ealing fall into one of five different categories of ownership. Overall, the cricket clubs in Ealing benefit from good security of access on their home grounds with only the clubs using education sites and the privately owned Club des Sports cricket facilities having unsecured access to their home pitches:

- **Club owned sites** - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club either owns the freehold or has a lease. Trailfinders and Brentham sports clubs (each with cricket club sections), SKLPC (a faith organisation with a cricket club section) and Ealing Cricket Club all own their grounds.
- **Council leased sites** - Ealing Council owns and leases a large number of the borough's playing fields to community cricket clubs (or to larger community sports organisation with cricket sections). These are

Osterley Cricket Ground (Osterley CC), Popesfield Sports Ground, Ealing and Brentfield Cricket Ground, Hanwell (both Ealing CC), Spikes Bridge Park, Southall (London Tigers), Actonians Sports Ground, Actonians Boddington Gardens and Shepherds Bush Cricket Ground. The Council will also be leasing Blondin Park to a community consortia as well as Durdans Park Cricket Ground to Ramgarhia SSC in the near future.

- **Park sites** - The following sites with cricket pitches in the borough are open access park sites owned by Ealing Council: Blondin Park (to be leased in the near future), Ealing Central Sports Ground (temporarily closed for upgrading), Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub (jointly with Hounslow Council), Islip Manor Park, North Acton Playing Fields, Perivale Park, Rectory Park; Southall Recreation Ground has 2 NTPs and Southall Park has a non turf net system and MUGAs used for Cage Cricket. On the park sites with fine turf, the squares are generally roped off when not in use to actively discourage informal use and damage from general park users. These pitches are available to hire on a pre-booked pay and play basis. Bookings can be made from February for the ensuing cricket season. The Council operates a priority booking system with preference given to those clubs that are based in Ealing.
- **Playing field charity sites** - The London Marathon Playing Fields in Greenford owned by the London Playing Fields Foundation offers secured access for community cricket albeit the clubs, schools or universities that use the three pitches have limited security of access in that they are required to pre-book on a season/half season contract or one-off basis. However, priority booking is given to existing users.
- **Privately owned sites** - Acton Cricket Club formerly hired pitch facilities on a seasonal basis from Club des Sports. The club has recently secured

a 99 years lease. West London Cricket Academy also uses this site for net based coaching activities.

- **School owned sites** - Generally, those community cricket clubs that are reliant on education pitches as their home ground do not have security beyond one season as the school could cease to offer the facilities to hire at any time or increase hire/rental fees. Perivale Phoenicians Cricket Club has a long-standing relationship with Drayton Manor High School as the club has a number of ex-pupils as members. However, this club's access to the school's cricket facilities it hires as its home ground is not formally secured and the club will lose access to the school facilities in July 2023 if it does not meet the increased rental requested by the school.

The independent St Benedict's School is one of the strongest cricket schools in the country with a strong focus on cricket development and excellence for its pupils and occasional games involving former pupils (Old Priorians). The school permits only occasional use of its facilities in Greenford by community clubs so as to maintain availability and quality for school teams. No regular seasonal hire agreements are in place.

Currently the NTP boundary at Dormers Wells High School is undersize for junior club cricket and is not used although Ealing CC **has previously had** discussions with the school about a partnership agreement. Lastly, William Perkin High School does offer secured access to its facilities under terms of a joint project agreement between Ealing Council, The Twyford Church of England Academies Trust, the Football Foundation, The London Marathon Charitable Trust and Sport England to develop a multi-sport hub at the school. Middlesex Cricket has a user agreement in place for the indoor sports hall cricket nets. So too does Brentham



Sports Club for hire of the school's NTP and cricket pitch for its 3rd and 4th team home Saturday league fixtures.

### 1.9 At Risk Sites

The affordability issue for Perivale Phoenixians at **Drayton Manor High School** places continued use of this pitch for community cricket at risk from July 2023. The Council has long-standing proposals to review in line with demand, the use of **Islip Manor Park** in Northolt on a season by season basis due to the lack of suitable pavilion and welfare facilities and its investment in upgrading the cricket facilities Ealing Central Sports Ground close by. Northolt Manor CC returned to Islip Manor Park last season and is scheduled to play at this ground for a further season (with some additional bookings from Ealing Hanwellians, and possibly Stallions CC) pending the re-opening of Ealing Central Sports Ground.

There have also been issues due to lack of use and the absence of a leaseholder on site with the cricket pitch facilities provided since the last PPS at the Council's **Durdans Park** site for use by Ramgarhia Cricket Club and/or other community club teams. Middlesex Cricket's Pitch Support Network (PSN) has inspected the pitch which has not been available for use since the installation of an NTP (and a new football share pavilion) in 2018. Greener Ealing has carried out remedial work to the fine turf following inspection by MC PCN and declared the pitch playable for the 2022 season.

### 1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

Now that the new and enhanced cricket provision identified in the last PPS at Popesfield Sports Ground, William Perkin High School, Gunnersbury Park and Durdans Park have been largely delivered, the remaining former playing field sites in Ealing that offer opportunities for additional cricket pitch supply

in future (subject to identifying a local need and securing the necessary consents and funding) are:

- **Norwood Hall Sports Ground** – The sports ground is owned by Ealing Council jointly with Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College and the building is now the Sri Guru Sabha Gurdwara. There is space to reinstate two cricket pitches with football and replace the derelict cricket football share pavilion.
- **Warren Farm Sports Ground** – There are outline proposals for reinstatement of a number of the original six pitches for community and club use and reinstatement of a pavilion (possibly with football) on this large Council owned site in Osterley.
- **Marnhams Field** - this closed site in the Council's ownership, previously used by Cardinal Wiseman High School, could potentially be suitable for non-turf cricket and/or football but would require a pavilion.
- **Dormers Wells Leisure Centre** - There are outline proposals for redevelopment of this outdated leisure centre which could potentially include a new cricket pitch.

There is also the opportunity to investigate if there is space at several existing playing field sites for installing additional cricket squares and/or non-turf pitches should a need be established. Perivale Park, Rectory Park, Lord Halsbury and Elthorne Waterside have potential for additional supply.

### 1.11 Pitch Quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within the borough based on their operation.

Figure 1.2 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation (S = Square O = outfield)

Rating	Council		Club		School		Other (Trust)		Totals
	S	O	S	O	S	O	S	O	
Good			2	3	2	1			4 squares; 3 outfields = good
Standard	5	2	7	6	1	2	2	2	15 squares; 12 outfields = standard
Poor	3	7	1	1			1	1	5 squares; 9 outfields = poor

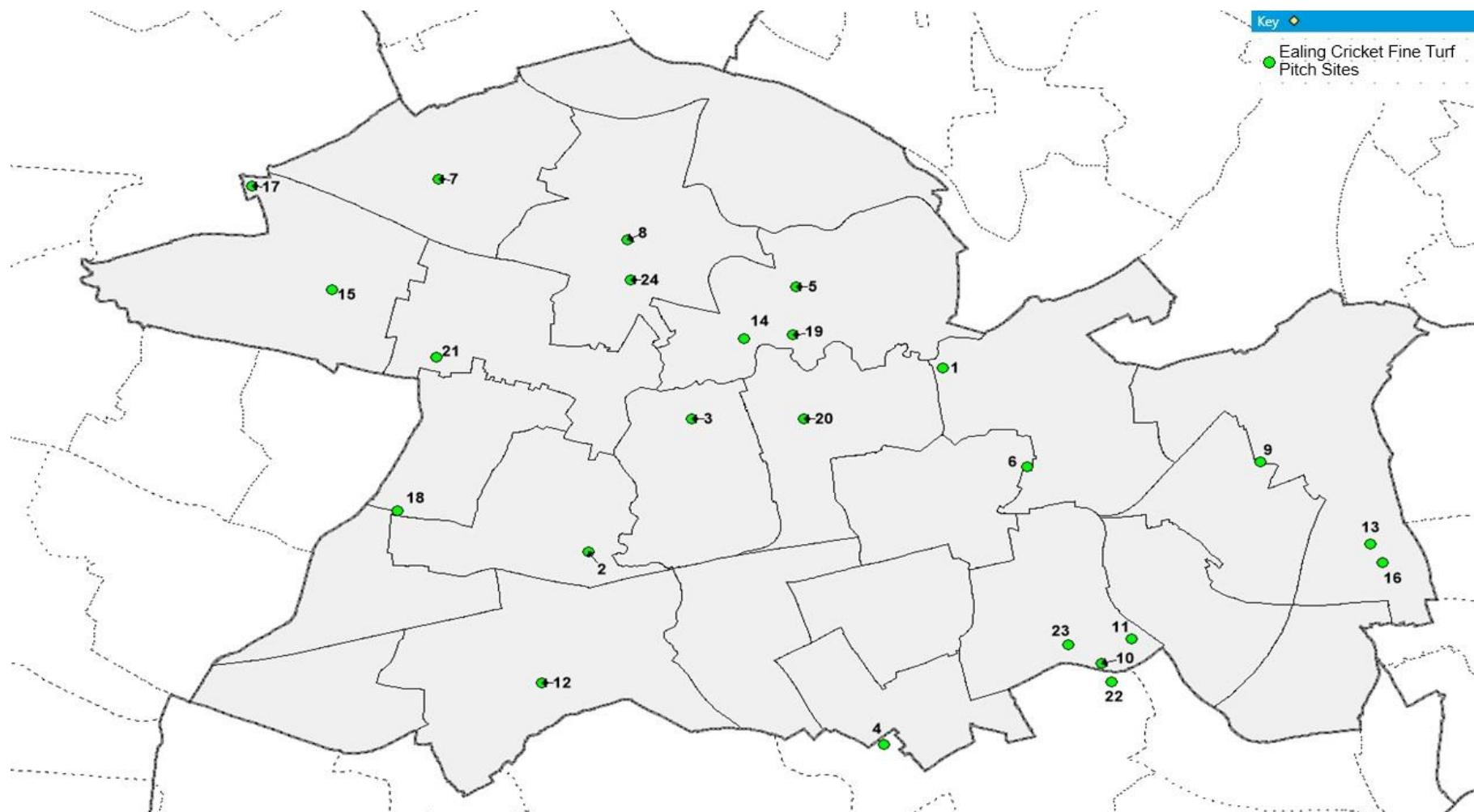
Unsurprisingly, in common with most local authority areas in the country, the pay and play council managed pitches in Ealing are a lower quality overall than the club and school maintained pitches. The main reason is the open access public park setting of the Council run facilities which leads to more incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than experienced on club and school sites where access is controlled. This places pressure on grounds maintenance budgets making pay and play cricket the least cost-effective playing pitch sport for councils to provide.

In theory, there is scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the council run sites although, in practice, these pitches experience heavy demand but it is often damaged caused by other park users as opposed to lack of maintenance, that impacts on the quality of the parks pitches.

### 1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.3 shows the distribution of cricket sites across Ealing. This shows that, provided the above projects are delivered as planned, residents from all parts of the borough will be within a reasonable journey time (estimated at 20minute drive time or 30minute public transport journey) of a cricket pitch, either a community club pitch (restricted to club members and guests) or a park-based pitch available on a play and play basis.

Figure 1.3 - Ealing Cricket Fine Turf Pitch Site Distribution



Cricket			
Existing Fine Turf pitches			
Map 1 Key	Name	Address	Postcode
1	Brentham Club	38a Meadvale Rd, Ealing	W5 1NP
2	Brentfield Cricket Ground	Greenford Road, Southall	UB1 3EB
3	Drayton Manor High School Playing Fields	Greenford Avenue	W7 1JJ
4	Durston House - Swyncombe Avenue Field	Swyncombe Avenue	W5 4DR
5	Ealing Central Sports Ground	Horsenden Lane South	UB6 8AP
6	Ealing Cricket Club	Corfton Road, Ealing	W5 2HS
7	Islip Manor Park	Eastcote Lane, Northolt	UB5 5RG
8	London Playing Fields (Greenford)	Birkbeck Avenue, Greenford	UB6 8LS
9	North Acton Playing Fields	Noel Road, Acton	W3 0JE
10	Actonians Sports Ground	Gunnersbury Drive, Ealing,	W5 4LL
11	Actonians @ Boddington Gardens	Boddington Gardens	W3 9AP
12	Osterley Cricket Club	Tentelow Lane, Southall	UB2 4LW
13	Club des Sports (Acton)	East Acton Lane,	W3 7HB
14	Perivale Park	Hicks Avenue, Perivale	UB6 8TJ
15	Rectory Park	Ruislip Road, Northolt	UB5 5NR
16	Shepherds Bush Cricket Club	Bromyard Avenue, East Acton Lane	W3 7BP
17	SKLPC Sports Ground	India Gardens, West End Road, Northolt	UB5 6RE

Cricket			
18	Spikes Bridge Park	Off West Avenue, Southall	UB1 2AR
19	St Benedicts School Playing Fields	Perivale Lane	UB6 8TL
20	Trailfinders Sports Club	Vallis Way, West Ealing	W13 0DD
21	Durdans Park	Adrienne Avenue, Southall	UB1 2QW
22	Gunnersbury Park	Popes Lane, Acton	W3 8LQ
23	Popesfield Sports Ground	Gunnersbury Avenue, Ealing	W5 4YG
24	William Perkin High School	Old Field Lane North, Greenford	UB6 8QD

### 1.13 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Since the last PPS, the opening of the Popesfield Sports Ground, the William Perkin High School cricket facilities and the new Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub pitches has addressed the issue of displaced demand of Saturday league teams of Ealing based affiliated cricket clubs to grounds outside the borough.

## 2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Ealing are summarised below.

### 2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

Between the 16 main Ealing-based clubs identified in the consultation, there are 49 adult men’s sides entered to compete in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues in 2022 plus three regular women’s sides (Acton CC and Ealing CC). The larger traditional clubs - Acton, Brentham, Ealing, Shepherds Bush, SKLPC, Actonians, Osterley, Ealing Trailfinders, London Tigers, Perivale Phoenixians - all have junior sections. Most of these clubs report that their junior sections have developed substantially over recent seasons especially in the younger age groups. Where possible, the clubs use their outfield and NTPs to cater for this demand. While the number of Saturday league teams has grown slightly since the last PPS, the number of teams playing Sunday cricket at the traditional clubs has reduced substantially.

In addition, demand for junior and youth cricket in the borough and non-traditional club team cricket has been further promoted since the last review by the cricket development activities of Middlesex Cricket (including the introduction of a 'transition' team structure (with competitions for u19 and u21 sides and a youth cup for boys and girls) to bridge the link between junior cricket and adult club cricket, as well as community cricket and youth development initiatives by the Council and partner community organisations, including London Tigers at Spikes Bridge Park. Currently, there are 18 transition teams (17 male, 1 female).

Since the last review, the number of new clubs and teams playing in London/West London South Asian leagues in the Southall and Harrow areas has also increased, placing additional demand on park pitches - particularly on Sundays. 10 such teams are identified (all male).

In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there are 76 men's teams (aged 18+), 4 women's teams, 65 boys’ teams (aged 7-18) and 20 girls’ teams (7-18yrs) playing cricket matches in the borough mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

Figure 2.1- Open Age Cricket Expressed Demand

Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Acton Cricket Club o 4 Sat league teams o 2 Sunday friendly teams o 6 boys’ sides o 1 transition competition team (from 2022)	Club des Sports, Acton	North Acton Playing Fields Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub
Actonians Cricket Club o 4 Sat league teams (5 in 2022) o Sunday friendly team o 2 women's team o 7 boys’ sides o 7 girls’ sides o 1 transition competition team (Youth Cup)	Actonians Sports Ground Actonians Boddington Gardens	Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub
Birkbeck College Cricket Club	Birkbeck College Cricket Club (London)	



Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Sat league teams</li> </ul>	Marathon Fields, Birkbeck Avenue, Greenford)	
Brentham Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Sat league teams</li> <li>Sunday friendly team</li> <li>6 boys' sides</li> <li>2 Girls teams</li> <li>3 transition teams (MDL, u19, Youth Cup)</li> </ul>	Brentham CC	William Perkins High School Ealing Central Sports Ground when reopens in 2023
Ealing Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Sat league teams</li> <li>Sunday friendly team</li> <li>1 women's team</li> <li>11 boys' sides</li> <li>9 girls' sides</li> <li>4 transition teams MDL/U19/Youth Cup (boys &amp; girls)</li> </ul>	Ealing Cricket Ground Popesfield Sports Ground	Blondin Park
Ealing Hanwellians Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Sat league teams (3 in 2022)</li> </ul>	Brentfield Cricket Ground	North Acton Playing Fields
Ealing Trailfinders Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Sat league teams (4 in 2022)</li> <li>6 boys' sides</li> </ul>	Trailfinders Sports Club (from 2023 when re-laid pitch becomes playable)	St Benedict's School (temporary relocation) Ealing Central Sports Ground

Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 transition teams (MDL, u19, Youth Cup)</li> </ul>		
Kay Plus Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Sat league teams</li> </ul>	North Acton Playing Fields	Potential hire of Durdans Park pitch when suitable condition for play from Ramgarhia Sports & Social Club
London Tigers Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Sat league teams (3 in 2022)</li> <li>2 Sunday sides</li> <li>2 midweek sides</li> <li>7 boys' sides</li> <li>3 transition teams (MDL/U19/Youth Cup) in 2022</li> </ul>	Spikes Bridge Park	Rectory Park
Northfields Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Sunday friendly team</li> <li>occasional midweek side</li> </ul>	Swyncombe Avenue Playing Fields, Durston House Preparatory School, (Ealing/Hounslow boundary)	
Northolt Manor Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Sat league team</li> </ul>	Islip Manor Park	Likely relocation to Ealing Central Sports Ground when reopens in 2023
Osterley Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Sat league teams</li> <li>Sunday friendly side</li> </ul>	Osterley Cricket Club	Ealing Central Sports Ground when reopens in 2023

Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used	Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 8 boys' sides</li> <li>o 3 transition teams ((MDL/U19/Youth Cup) in 2022)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sunday friendly team</li> <li>o 6 boys' sides</li> <li>o 2 girls' sides</li> </ul>		
Perivale Phoenixians Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4 Sat league teams</li> <li>o 5 boys' sides</li> </ul>	Drayton Manor High School (current rental agreement expires in July 2023)	Perivale Park	Shree Kutch Leva Patel (SKLP) Community Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 3 Sat league teams (4 in 2022)</li> <li>o Sunday friendly team</li> <li>o 3 boys' sides</li> </ul>	SKLPC Sport Ground	Rectory Park
Ramgarhia Sports & Social Club Cricket <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1 Sunday friendly team</li> <li>o youth coaching</li> </ul>	Durdans Park from 2022 or 2023 as potential ground share with Kay CC subject to renovations to the pitch (This site has been closed since 2011 and subject to a major upgrade project as a partnership between Ealing Council, Ramgarhia Sports & Social Club, Middlesex Cricket and the ECB providing a new pavilion, fine turf and NTP)	Ashford Sports Club, Staines	<b>Other community cricket teams in the borough</b> <p>There are a significant number of largely single team clubs (mainly located in and around the Southall area of the borough) that compete in short format Central or West London cricket leagues organised by various faith and South Asian community organisations.</p> <p>Teams identified include: Southall Dragons; Southall Lankians; Baladia Youth; Diu Community of Southall; Diu Daredevils;</p>		
Shepherds Bush Cricket Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 4 Sat league teams</li> </ul>	Shepherds Bush Cricket Club	Gunnarsbury Park North Acton Playing Fields			

Ealing based cricket clubs and teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Friends United; Gangeshwar; Shivam; Telugu Association; Zahira.		

## 2.2 Active People Survey

*Adults:* The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey<sup>1</sup> (May 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e. taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) fell 0.3% from 0.7% between May 2019 - May 2020 to 0.4% between May 2020 and May 2021.

If cricket participation in the borough were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e. 0.7%), this would indicate around 1,850 adults (aged 16+) living in the borough play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 265,000. At the 2020/21 national 16+ cricket penetration rate of 0.4%, this would suggest circa 1,050 over 16-year-olds in Ealing play cricket.

With approximately 50 adult teams currently, plus approximately 15 youth transition teams (aged over 16) and another 15 borough-based teams approximately playing in South Asian and other friendly leagues, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the borough is close to 1,200 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult cricket participation in Ealing is in line with the pre-pandemic national average of 0.7%, this suggests that as much as 50% of all regular adult cricket played in the borough takes place outside of the club environment (i.e. informal

games in family groups and among groups of friends and work colleagues in parks).

## 2.3 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less organised forms of casual play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British minority ethnic (BME) communities.

The Asian/Asian British group accounts for the largest proportion of the non-white population in Ealing. This would suggest a case for the Council to retain and continue to maintain existing facilities for informal forms of cricket in the borough (NTPs) and consider the case for increasing the supply of pitches available for pay and play for competitive league fixtures outside the traditional English cricket club and ECB league model as well as other informal cricket games for family groups and groups of friends. The Council's initiative with Hounslow Council for pay and play pitches in Gunnersbury Park aligns with this demand trend.

## 2.4 Displaced Demand

In the consultations carried out, whilst several of the larger clubs in Ealing have in the past struggled to secure suitable quality pitches for all their league teams on Saturdays, the additional supply since the last PPS in 2016 at Popesfield Sports Ground, Blondin Park, William Perkin High School and now coming on stream at Gunnersbury Park have largely addressed the historical issue of displaced demand of teams to grounds in Harrow (e.g.

<sup>1</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey May 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2021)

Brentham Club to Harrow Cricket Club Ground) and Hounslow (e.g. Shepherds Bush CC to King's House School).

One former Ealing based club continues to be permanently displaced. Until 2010, the **Ealing Three Bridges Cricket Club** was based in the borough (originally on the site of what is now Ealing Hospital). Since 2010, the club's two Saturday sides (and one Sunday side) have been based at the Harrow Recreation Grounds in Roxborough Road Harrow playing in the Middlesex Championship divisions. In addition, pending the completion of the Durdans Park pitch renovations and finalising of an asset transfer of this facility from the Council to Ramgarhia Sports & Social Club, the Ramgarhia CC is temporarily displaced to Ashford Sports Club in Staines.

## 2.5 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Since the pandemic, a number of clubs have increased the number of adult and transition teams entered to the Middlesex league and cup competitions for the 2022 season. These include a new transition team at Acton CC, a fifth Saturday side at Actonians CC and new Saturday and/or transition teams at **Ealing** Trailfinders CC, Ealing Hanwellians CC, Osterley CC, London Tigers CC and SKLPC CC.

The greatest growth in the last few seasons has been in the youth / junior age groups where the development and introduction of the transition team competition structure has been embraced at most of the larger clubs with junior sections. At the same time, clubs in Ealing have also embraced the ECB's Cricket All Stars (5-8 yr olds) and Dynamos (8-11yr olds) 8-week course initiatives for primary age children which has boosted demand in their junior sections. Several clubs, especially Ealing CC, continue to maintain waiting lists for their junior sections indicating unmet demand. The clubs offering

these courses include Ealing Trailfinders, Perivale Phoenicians, Actonians, Brentham, London Tigers and girls only sessions at William Perkin School.

### 3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed towards the end of the 2021 season. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e. a non-technical visual site assessment. Ten of the fine turf pitch sites were identified by the Steering Group for more in-depth assessment by the Middlesex Cricket's Pitch Support Network assessors. These assessments were visual assessment in September 2021 of both the playing surface and extracted core samples.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments (as set out in the site audits under separate cover) were reviewed with representatives of Middlesex Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e. site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other boroughs:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

Pitch Quality Rating	Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good	5
Standard	3
Poor	1

The site audit data (under separately cover) details the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity for community use);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e. the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
  - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
  - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
  - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls significantly below the carrying capacity)

The following 11 sites are highlighted here the site audits as RED rated sites where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played over and above their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e. number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the



square. This finding indicates that, whilst displacement of demand to grounds outside the borough has been minimised since the last PPS in 2016, there remains a need for more fine turf capacity in the borough whether this is more pitches, improved quality and carrying capacity of the existing pitch supply, or a combination of the two.

- Actonians Sports Ground
- Actonians Boddington Gardens
- Brentham Club
- Brentfield Cricket Ground
- Club des Sports
- Ealing Cricket Club
- Islip Manor Park
- London Playing Fields Greenford
- Rectory Park
- SKLPC CC
- Spikes Bridge Park

A further 3 sites from the site audits are AMBER rated indicating that the available fine turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Shepherds Bush CC
- Osterley CC
- Drayton Manor High School

The findings of the 10 Pitch Support Network (PCN) Reports and recommendations for enhanced maintenance and/or equipment and training together with budget costs are summarised in Figure 9 below and inform the key priorities for action within the Playing Pitch Strategy.

The 10 cricket sites assessed using the PCN methodology were:

- Gunnersbury Park
- William Perkin High School
- SKLPC
- Shepherds Bush
- London Tigers
- Drayton Manor High School
- Rectory Park
- Perivale Park
- North Acton Playing Fields
- Osterley

The maintenance practices are those recommended to improve and maintain the pitches to a higher quality than is currently the case. Some of the maintenance included will already be undertaken. The detailed reports include information under each task setting out more detailed guidance as to rationales, frequencies, timings etc. to maximise effectiveness. Guidance is also provided in a number of the reports on the specialist equipment recommended for undertaking the specific tasks. Budget costs are not provided.

Figure 3.2: Summary of Middlesex Cricket Pitch Support Network (PSN) Site Visit Report Maintenance Recommendations

SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
Gunnelsbury Park <i>(Council)</i>	2 squares - newly installed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More regular watering</li> <li>Fertiliser programme</li> <li>Raise table cut to 20mm</li> <li>Raise track cut to 8mm</li> <li>Enhanced weed control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plane off thatch and surface debris to 8mm</li> <li>Top dress to 12-15mm</li> <li>Establish grass</li> <li>Aeration programme</li> <li>Fertilising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling (union Jack pattern) increasing weight progressively</li> <li>Apply spring-summer fine turf fertiliser</li> </ul>
SITE	SCOPE	SHORT TERM (END OF SEASON)	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
William Perkin High School <i>Middlesex CB Pitch Support Network)</i>	1 square (8 wickets) - 3 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the planned renovation, as agreed with the contractor and detailed during the visit.</li> <li>Monitor the establishment of the post-renovation grow in to learn how conditions react and change. Monitor irrigation levels and available turf nutrition levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The groundsman has documented out of season works to take place, including spiking.</li> <li>The square was constructed following drainage works taking place which is evident in locations on and adjacent to the square, (i.e. a depression of 10mm to south of square and drain lines width-ways on the square itself) - Monitor and record the impact of the end of season works in this location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve and eradicate the undulation detailed under medium term will require continued end of season renovations over a number of seasons.</li> <li>To facilitate increased practice or training, outfield wickets can be tagged into the square to better distribute match and training use – this is a longer-term aspiration once usage levels are established.</li> <li>A PQS assessment including soil analysis during the 2022 season.</li> </ul>
SKLPC Cricket Club Ground <i>(Club)</i>	1 square (11 wickets) - 20 years old approx.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the planned renovation, as agreed with the contractor and detailed during visit.</li> <li>Monitor the establishment of the post-renovation grow in to learn how conditions react and change.</li> <li>Monitor irrigation levels and available turf nutrition levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the off-season routine brushing to remove dew and allow air to circulate around the grass sward</li> <li>Spiking will promote deeper rooting, increased air within the soil profile and may assist in re-binding the root break present</li> <li>Ensure all equipment and machinery is serviced,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer term aspirations will depend on progress made from this end of season renovation and the results of the soil analysis.</li> <li>Good foundations are in place to progress, surface levels are desirable, thatch is minimal.</li> <li>The restrictions currently lie with a shortfall in grooming operations and ground cover and the investigation</li> </ul>

SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Application of an autumn/winter fertiliser.</li> <li>○ Utilize rotary mower once the juvenile grass is able to take a cut, make repairs to any areas that have not taken so well by overseeding and <i>lightly</i> dressing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Purchase a cylinder mower with interchangeable cassette system</li> <li>○ Purchase a designated brush or verti-cutting unit to thin the sward and stand the grass plant up, presenting it for cutting.</li> <li>○ Incorporate turf grooming and slitting to the maintenance schedule, performing these tasks when conditions allow through the off-season.</li> </ul>	<p>necessary into the loam composition and restoration of the root break within the profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These are not quick fixes and will require monitoring and careful planning over time.</li> </ul>
<p>Shepherds Bush Cricket Club Ground <i>(Club)</i></p>	<p>1 square</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ During autumn renovations, a Graden was used to remove fibre and thatch from the square leaving surface scarring, requiring over-seeding in the spring (timing weather dependent).</li> <li>○ Over-seed in the middle of cross rolling (i.e. before heavy roller used).</li> <li>○ An autumn fertiliser should be used until the grass starts to give regular growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use sorrel roller to make dimples into the pitches that would not be in use for play for approximately 6 weeks after seeding. Then, the seeded pitches can be brushed to push the seed into the holes. Do not top dress as this will cause a build-up of soil on the mowers and roller.</li> <li>○ For cross rolling, use a lighter mower first, then moving onto the heavy mower and then the pitch roller.</li> <li>○ The mastiff should be repaired to be used on the square for cutting, then using the Super Certes for the first cut (rather than a rotary) and the Auto Certes for the final pitch cut.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrange for contractors to come on-site as soon as the playing season has finished, this will allow for maximum recovery time.</li> <li>○ Look into a machine replacement programme.</li> <li>○ If possible, have 3-cylinder mowers in use, this will make pitch preparations better.</li> <li>○ The groundsman should attend further IOG training courses.</li> </ul>

SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
London Tigers <i>(Council SLA with club - club irrigates)</i>	1 square (10 wickets) - 20 yrs old approx.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Topping up dressing and over-seeding weekly to enhance ground cover and decrease the ruts</li> <li>○ A selective herbicide application</li> <li>○ In winter - keep free of footfall and animal ingress</li> <li>○ Light topping of the grass with a rotary mower</li> <li>○ Monitor irrigation and turf nutrition levels</li> <li>○ Frequent drag brushing to clear dew and, when dry, worm casts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Frequent spiking</li> <li>○ Turf grooming by way of verti-cutting or brushing</li> <li>○ Repairs and improvements to grass cover and levels of isolated areas to sustain benefits of end of season works</li> <li>○ Re-assess needs early spring and prepare a schedule of pre-season tasks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify club volunteers to increase and assist in maintaining the square, should the agreement with the local authority continue.</li> <li>○ The GMA and Middlesex Cricket to support with training and education of any identified individuals</li> </ul>
GROUND	SCOPE	END OF SEASON		
Drayton Manor High School (Perivale Phoenicians) <i>(School's GM contractor plus club volunteer)</i>	1 square (12 wickets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Given the core samples, it is imperative that end of season renovations are carried out this year.</li> <li>○ Essential to remove organic material that has accumulated through the season and to tackle current thatch problem Renovations and seed germination <b>before</b> mid-October (cold nights). Two options: 1. Scarify to a depth with 3 passes, seed and top dress, every pre-season for many years supported with a rigorous summer programme of thatch removal. OR, 2. To resolve in one operation, Koro fraise mow off the top 15mm, clean off,</li> </ul>		

SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
		cultivate, seed, pre-seed, fertilise and top dress possibly covering the table in a fleece to speed up germination.		
GROUND	SCOPE	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON/SEASON	IRRIGATION
Rectory Park (Council)	2 squares (each 8 wickets)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard renovation process - cut down and remove vegetation, scarification, clean surface of debris, seed and top dress</li> <li>Establish/maintain grass with pedestrian equipment preferably to 25mm</li> <li>Aeration using solid tines with a vertical action to a minimum depth of 100mm</li> <li>Fertilise</li> <li>Drag brush, swishing daily, weekly to disperse worm casting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling (union Jack pattern) increasing weight progressively</li> <li>Apply spring-summer fine turf fertiliser</li> <li>Weed control via spraying or use of granular weed and feed</li> <li>Surface spiking, pricking, with the use of a sorrel spiker to create a seedbed and allow moisture to infiltrate through the soil to try to reduce algae and moss growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install irrigation point close to squares - Water is key in the preparation of a track and for retaining moisture at depth in the square through the season, also to help with the recovery, repair of used tracks.</li> </ul>
Perivale Park (Council)	2 squares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard renovation process - cut down and remove vegetation, scarification, clean surface of debris, seed and top dress</li> <li>Establish/maintain grass with pedestrian equipment preferably to 25mm</li> <li>Aeration using solid tines with a vertical action to a minimum depth of 100mm</li> <li>Fertilise</li> <li>Drag brush, swishing daily, weekly to disperse worm casting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling (union Jack pattern) increasing weight progressively</li> <li>Apply spring-summer fine turf fertiliser</li> <li>Weed control via spraying or use of granular weed and feed</li> <li>Where there has been worm activity and bare areas, Surface spiking, pricking, with the use of a sorrel spiker to create small holes for new seed to be sown and lightly dressed.</li> <li>With a lot of foot fall over the ground, height of cut for the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install irrigation point close to squares - Water is key in the preparation of a track and for retaining moisture at depth in the square through the season, also to help with the recovery, repair of used tracks.</li> </ul>



SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
			table to 18-20m, track height of cut to 8mm to establish recovery	
North Acton PF  (Council)	3 squares (6 wickets each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All squares to have grass cut as short as possible to remove vegetation, to be scarified, cleaned off, seeded and top dressed.</li> <li>Establish/maintain grass with pedestrian equipment, preferably to 25mm</li> <li>Aeration using solid tines with a vertical action at varying depths to a minimum of 100mm</li> <li>Fertilising to encourage plant health and root development</li> <li>Drag brushing, swishing daily, weekly to disperse worm casting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rolling (union Jack pattern) increasing weight progressively</li> <li>Apply spring-summer fine turf fertiliser</li> <li>Weed control via spraying or use of granular weed and feed</li> <li>Where there has been worm activity and bare areas, Surface spiking, pricking, with the use of a sorrel spiker to create small holes for new seed to be sown and lightly dressed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install irrigation point close to squares - Water is key in the preparation of a track and for retaining moisture at depth in the square through the season, also to help with the recovery, repair of used tracks.</li> </ul>
GROUND	SCOPE	SQUARES	OUTFIELDS	EQUIPMENT
Osterley Cricket Club Ground  (Club)	Both outfields & squares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2nd table levels require extensive work to remove the high points and to also address the low.</li> <li>Removal of organic material, tilth the top and level the entire table, seed and top dress</li> <li>Main table renovation - scarify in two directions, seed, top dress</li> <li>Beginning of the playing season - 15mm high cut for table increasing to 18/20mm in temperatures above 24c.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outfield height of cut through the playing season 15mm, increasing to 20mm in temperatures above 24c</li> <li>Outfield and tables will benefit from a selective weed killer being applied</li> <li>2 weeks after the weed killer has taken effect aggressively scarify the entire outfield and remove all organic material</li> <li>Volunteers to inspect field and dress out areas of concern with</li> </ul>	<p>A full inventory of machinery is required with the below information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What machinery is in full working order</li> <li>What machinery is not functional and the repair that is required</li> <li>Safety guards/shields are present and correctly installed</li> <li>Dead man switches/start stop switches function correctly</li> <li>A service history for each piece of machine ensuring that a competent person/contractor has carried out the</li> </ul>

SITE (MAINTENANCE)	SCOPE	IN SEASON	END OF SEASON	PRE-SEASON
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pitch preparation - initially roll with 15mm of grass, reduce to height of cut at 13mm, brush and rake the track, to achieve a marble effect (not devoid of grass)</li> <li>○ Minimum height of cut for Adult cricket no less than 6mm, for Junior cricket between 8-10mm</li> <li>○ Winter height of cut of the table at 25-30mm and cut with a rotary mower ensuring the blade is sharp</li> <li>○ Aeration of the cricket table once grass established through October and November with the use of vertical action spiker, drill machine. Ensuring the depths are varied, ranging from 2,4,6,8 to 10 inches each time a process is carried out</li> <li>○ Weed treatment each season via spray or the use of a weed and feed fertiliser when weeds are active</li> <li>○ Every 3-4 weeks pre-season and through the season the table should be verti cut, brushed to remove dead and organic material.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 50/50 or 70/30 rootzone, any low points, tyre marks or rutting, at a rate of 35g/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>○ Once seed has germinated and height sufficient, ensure it is cut with a sharp bladed mower</li> <li>○ Apply a slow-release fertiliser to help growth and add nutrients</li> <li>○ Ensure fertiliser is established within the maintenance plan, as a guide February/March and September</li> <li>○ When ground conditions permit in October/November aeration via shockwave, linear aeration.</li> <li>○ When ground conditions permit February/March, aeration with a Verti drain</li> <li>○ Weed spraying each year when weeds are active</li> <li>○ Weed spray the fence perimeter to stop weed seeds blowing on to the outfield,</li> <li>○ Keep the surrounds and borders free from debris, clutter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ necessary servicing, inspection and repairs</li> <li>○ Operator Manuals for each piece of equipment</li> </ul>

## 4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

### 4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the playing capacity of the available fine-turf pitches in the borough does not meet current demand from Ealing based clubs and teams which has continued to grow since the last PPS in 2015. The main issue is a lack of fine turf playing capacity on Saturdays for the large and growing borough-based clubs notably Ealing CC, Actonians CC, Brentham CC, London Tigers CC and Perivale Phoenicians CC.

This lack of capacity will be partly addressed when the Ealing Central Sports Ground pitches re-open - although the ancillary facilities at this site need improving (not currently budgeted) and potentially the installation of high ball-strike netting to allow adult play on the northernmost square. The current capacity deficit has been reduced by the recently opened Gunnersbury Park pitches and the Durdans Park Cricket Ground pitch (to be leased to Ramgarhia Cricket Club for use by this club and/or others potentially Kay Plus CC).

Despite the provision of several new non-turf pitches since 2015, capacity issues remain for junior and short format cricket. Supply of NTPs is an issue for the junior sections of traditional clubs such as Acton CC who are seeking agreement to install a NTP at Club des Sports and Ealing CC who aspire to a second NTP at Popesfield Sports Ground. There is also growing demand from non-traditional single team clubs for non-turf artificial wickets in parks and other community settings.

The under-supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the borough identified in the last PPS has now largely been addressed with the new provision at William Perkin High School, Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub, Ada Lovelace High School, Ealing Fields High School and Trailfinders Sports Club.

The quality of pitch supply highlighted as an issue in the last strategy due to heavy demand is in the process of being addressed at several sites - e.g. through the pitches at Gunnersbury Park Sports Hub and Ealing Central Sports Ground. The pitch in Islip Manor Park remains of poor quality but is open in line with identified demand. Northolt Manor CC's single team and Ealing Hanwellian CC 3rd team formerly based at Islip Manor Park have both been offered the chance to transfer to the upgraded cricket facilities at Ealing Central Sports Ground for 2023. The Pitch Support Network's assessments in September 2021 of 10 pitches across the borough - both club and council managed - highlight the need for enhanced maintenance specifications (and budgets) at most of these sites - including the newly installed pitches in Gunnersbury Park; however as previously mentioned any pitches in public parks remain a challenge to maintain.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading both at Brentham Sports Club and SKLPC CC's ground.

Longstanding issues with capacity and/or quality of pavilions remain unresolved at Actonians Sport Ground, Ealing Cricket Ground and at Brentfield while Acton CC has recently secured a 99 years lease on a site for a pavilion on their home ground from Club des Sports in Acton.

### 4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2031 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used.

To meet cricket demand from 38,306 additional borough residents (as currently forecast<sup>2</sup>) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +3.42 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the borough to accommodate growth of teams. Team growth is evidenced by the recent establishment of a new transition team at Acton CC, a fifth Saturday side at Actonians CC and new Saturday and/or transition teams at Ealing Trailfinders CC, Ealing Hanwellians CC, Osterley CC, London Tigers CC and SKLPC CC.

In addition, several of the large traditional cricket clubs are continuing to experience growth across the board, male, female and junior. When the clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups are added, it is estimated that there will be a need for between four and five additional cricket pitches in the borough by 2031.

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<sup>2</sup> GLA 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released February 2020)

## 5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket Key Findings and Issues

	Cricket
<p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p>	<p>32 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket across Ealing in 2022, on 23 operational playing pitch sites. A further 4 fine turf pitches at Ealing Central Sports Ground are currently undergoing drainage improvement works and pitches at Durdans Park Cricket Ground (to be leased to Ramgarhia SSC) and Trailfinders Sports Club will be in use for the first time in 2022. There are 19 non-turf pitches available for use across 15 operational sites. Whilst there has been little change in the number of fine turf pitches in the borough since the last PPS aside from at Popesfield Playing Field and William Perkin School, there has been a significant increase in the provision of non-turf pitches and in indoor cricket facilities (for example the new facilities at William Perkin High School and Trailfinders Sports Club).</p> <p>Between the 16 main Ealing-based clubs identified in the consultation, there are 49 adult men’s sides entered to compete in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues cricket in 2022 plus three regular women’s sides (Acton CC and Ealing CC). The larger traditional clubs - Acton, Brentham, Ealing, Shepherds Bush, SKLPC, Actonians, Osterley, Ealing Trailfinders, London Tigers, Perivale Phoenixians - all have junior sections. Most of these clubs report that their junior sections have developed substantially over recent seasons especially in the younger age groups.</p> <p>Where possible, the clubs use their outfield and NTPs to cater for this demand. While the number of Saturday league teams has grown slightly since the last PPS, the number of teams playing Sunday cricket at the traditional clubs has reduced substantially.</p> <p>In addition, demand for junior and youth cricket in the borough and non-traditional club team cricket has been further promoted since the last review by the cricket development activities of Middlesex Cricket (including the introduction of a 'transition' team structure (with competitions for u19 and u21 sides and a youth cup for boys and girls) to bridge the link between colts cricket and adult club cricket, as well community cricket and youth development initiatives by the Council and partner community organisations, including London Tigers at Spikes Bridge Park. Currently, there are 18 transition teams (17 male, 1 female).</p> <p>Since the last review the number of new clubs and teams playing in London/West London South Asian leagues in the Southall and Harrow areas has also increased, placing additional demand on park pitches - particularly on Sundays. 10 such teams are identified (all male).</p>



	<b>Cricket</b>
	<p>In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there were 76 men's teams (aged 18+), 4 women's teams, 65 boys' teams (aged 7-18) and 20 girls' teams (7-18yrs) playing cricket matches in the borough mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.</p>
<p><b>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</b></p>	<p>Although displaced demand identified in the last PPS has largely been eliminated through investment in new and improved provision, current secured supply does <u>not</u> meet all of the current demand for cricket in the borough.</p> <p>Whilst the majority of the cricket clubs in the borough have secured access to a home ground, two large multi-team clubs (Acton CC and Perivale Phoenicians CC) have no security of access at one of the grounds they use for home fixtures. This is a particularly pressing issue for the latter club as the host school has recently substantially increased its demand for annual ground rental. Northfields CC, a single team club, is similarly reliant on seasonal hire agreement with a school. Ealing Trailfinders CC is also currently playing on unsecured supply at St Benedict's School. However, this is only temporary while the re-laid pitch on the club's home sports ground gets re-established.</p> <p>In addition, several clubs, including the largest - Ealing CC - continue to maintain waiting lists for their junior sections indicating unmet demand.</p> <p>There is also high demand at several of those Ealing Council Park sites with cricket pitches (e.g. North Acton and Rectory Park) from single team clubs playing short format cricket in West London or pan London leagues (including several focused on serving South Asian communities). When not in use for formal matches, artificial (non-turf) pitches in the public parks (and pitch outfield) also accommodate demand from family groups and groups of friends and work colleagues. The re-opening of the four re-laid pitches at Ealing Central Sports Ground and two re-laid pitches in Gunnersbury Park allocated to Ealing over the next year will help to address this growing non-traditional cricket demand.</p>
<p><b>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</b></p>	<p>Pitch inspection and assessments by Middlesex Cricket Pitch Support Network of specialist grounds advisers in 2021 indicate that the current maintenance schedules and budgets at a number of sites are insufficient to maintain the fine turf pitches to a good quality. Most of the sites assessed were in park or school settings. In the case of the pay and play park sites, LB Ealing is no different from other local authorities in finding it challenging to meet the pitch quality expectations of hiring clubs on open access park sites within available budgets for parks grounds maintenance.</p> <p>It is clear from the site-specific analysis of use of the pitches that many are currently being over-played. Over half of the fine turf pitches are currently being used close to or above their playing capacity over a season. Without additional provision, the quality of these pitches will be adversely impacted over time exacerbating the capacity shortfall.</p>

**What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?**

Population growth across the borough - both overall and in the Asian/Asian British communities in the north and west of the borough in particular - will drive an increase in the number of adult and junior teams wanting to play short format cricket.

In addition, several of the large traditional cricket clubs are continuing to experience growth across the board, male, female and junior. In particular the larger clubs already experience unmet demand for juniors, are actively developing new youth/young adult 'transition' teams with support from Middlesex Cricket, and have aspirations for growth - particularly women and girl's cricket.

**Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?**

There is not enough accessible and secured community use provision in the borough to meet future demand.

Taking the pressures of demand identified above in the round, it is estimated that there will be a need for between four and five additional cricket pitches in the borough by 2031, to include both fine-turf and artificial (non-turf) wickets.